

SENATOR ROBERT J. KANE

THIRTY-SECOND DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING 300 CAPITOL AVENUE, SUITE 3400 HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591 CAPITOL: (860) 240-8875 TOLL FREE: (800) 842-1421 E-MAIL: Rob.Kane@cga.ct.gov WEBSITE: www.SenatorKane.com

DEPUTY MINORITY LEADER PRO TEMPORE & CAUCUS CHAIRMAN FOR POLICY

RANKING MEMBER

APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
EXECUTIVE & LEGISLATIVE NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

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PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Senator Doyle, Representative Reed, Senator Formica, Representative Ackert, and members of the Joint Committee on Energy and Technology,

I am Senator Rob Kane and I am testifying in favor of Proposed Senate Bill 730 AN ACT PROHIBITING HOMEOWNER OR CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATIONS FROM INTERFERING WITH OR PREVENTING INSTALLATION OF SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC SYSTEMS.

Rising electricity rates are impacting homeowners all over Connecticut. *Usually* an individual in Connecticut has the freedom to find alternate sources of energy in order to reduce both the price and environmental impact of energy consumption. In many other states *everyone* has the freedom to take these measures. Currently Connecticut is not one of those states. In Connecticut homeowner and condominium associations can, and some do, prevent the individuals living in the association from installing solar panels.

I am proposing that we allow for common-interest owners to install solar panels. To me this seems like a common-sense bill. Especially now that electricity rates are so high, it is unfair to deny an individual's right to an effective solution. More than 25 states have already passed "solar rights" laws; let's not be behind on this issue but rather take a stand and open our eyes to finding, and allowing the implementation of, new solutions. Connecticut should be a leader in supporting cost-effective energy sources and protecting individual freedoms. We currently are not. Please support me in this bill and let's help Connecticut move forward.

Thank you for your consideration of Senate Bill 730.

Sincerely,

Senator Rob Kane 32nd District